

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE C7

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
14 June 1984

No proof of Nica arms to Salva: Pat

By HARRISON RAINIE
and BARBARA REHM

Washington (News Bureau)—Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.), vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, insisted yesterday that the Reagan administration has failed to provide "any conclusive information" about massive weapons shipments from Nicaragua to leftist rebels battling the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador.

The existence of an ongoing cross-border flow of arms has been the major justification for the administration's highly controversial, three-year-old "secret war" against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Moynihan said his committee, which oversees intelligence operations, "has not been presented with any conclusive information" to document the arms flow. His statement appeared to lend some credence to assertions by former CIA analyst David MacMichael that the Reagan administration is misleading Congress and the public about Nicaraguan activity in El Salvador.

IN A SERIES of interviews published yesterday and over the weekend, MacMichael, who worked for the CIA from 1981 to 1983 as a contract employee dealing with Central American intelligence estimates, said the administration has lacked credible evidence of a substantial flow of weapons from Nicaragua to El Salvador since the spring of 1981.

But Secretary of State Shultz angrily disputed the MacMichael charges. "It is inconceivable that an informed, honest person" could deny the arms supply from Nicaragua to the Salvadoran guerrillas. "The evidence is everywhere. I've looked at a lot of it and I think it is totally and absolutely convincing that the direction and the supply of the guerrillas in El Salvador comes from Nicaragua."

Shultz, at a luncheon with diplomatic correspondents, expressed astonishment at being questioned repeatedly on the issue and suggested that MacMichael "must be living in some other world."

CIA DIRECTOR William J. Casey said that MacMichael's charges were "just one man's opinion." Neither Shultz nor Casey provided evidence to refute MacMichael.

Moynihan, a consistent supporter of aid to the anti-Sandinista rebels, predicted that disclosures challenging the Reagan administration's repeated assertions about Nicaragua "exporting revolution" will prompt Congress to halt aid to the "contra" guerrillas fighting the Nicaraguan government.

Senate and House leaders have been trying to work out a compromise on funding that will at least give \$6 million to \$8 million more to the contras to help them wind down their operations. But House leaders have said that recent disclosures about the lack of proof about Nicaraguan involvement in the Salvadoran civil war mean that no new aid will be voted by the Democrat-

controlled chamber.

MOYNIHAN also disclosed that the Senate Intelligence Committee had reached written, formal agreement with the CIA about when and how the agency is to notify Congress about covert operations. He said the CIA has asked that the agreement be kept secret, but he spoke about its major points.

The agreement requires that Congress be informed of "significant anticipated activity" in spy operations, Moynihan said. He acknowledged that there might be loopholes in the document, because "you cannot devise a fail-safe system." But he called it "the most important" development in congressional oversight over intelligence operations since Congress revamped the law in 1980.